

## Message from Keith McNamara, Managing Director

### Tremendous Work by our People in Tayside Contracts Recognised by Joint Committee

**1 December 2021**

The extraordinary efforts by all our people in Tayside Contracts in supporting our communities and keeping each other safe during the unprecedented pandemic times last year, was recognised by all our Elected Members on the Tayside Contracts Joint Committee last week.

At the Committee, we presented our Annual performance Report for 2020/21. As we all know, this was one of the most extraordinary times in global history. We need no reminding that for the first four months of the year, virtually the entire organisation was placed on standby as part of a national lockdown. During that time, you have been incredibly flexible, and wonderfully dedicated, as we have delivered our vital services, through a series of further lockdowns, and ever-changing restrictions.

We are proud of what we do in Tayside Contracts, and the Annual Performance Report gives us a chance to celebrate our successes, and highlights our great strengths. Despite the pandemic, we achieved many incredible results, for example:

- We commissioned and implemented the Tay Cuisine central production unit, for our school and community meals, with the first meals being delivered in January 2021. This ground-breaking initiative provides significant financial savings to Dundee City and Angus Councils, whilst delivering the capacity to cope with the estimated 1.5 million additional meals required for the introduction of Universal Free School Meals for primary pupils, in 2021 and 2022.
- Tayside Contracts' outstanding performance was recognised at UK wide level. Firstly, at the National Association for Public Service Excellence Awards, where we were shortlisted for Best Performer in Transport, Operations, and Vehicle Maintenance, and also Most Improved Performance in Catering. In the category of 'Most Improved Building Cleaning', we were awarded the overall winner. These are considerable achievements, especially considering these awards cover the entire United Kingdom.
- We were also recognised at the UK Highways Awards, where we were finalists in the 'Best New Technology' category, for successfully integrating mobile technology in our construction routine and reactive work.

The report expresses our pride that our people in Tayside Contracts have worked alongside our Councils in Tayside, and our communities, to support each other and the people of Tayside to 'Enhance our Communities Through Excellent Services'.

The report is packed with many, many examples where your brilliant work has been recognised. If you get the chance, please have a look at it. Because it covered such a unique period of history, it really captures the once in a lifetime (hopefully) response that you made to dealing with the pandemic – and is worth a read even just for that.

The [APR is available to view here.](#)

I think the view of both the Elected Members and our own leaders in the organisation can be summarised by the following extract from the Report:

*“All we are in Tayside Contracts, and all we can be, is achieved through our people, who work so hard, and so selflessly, every day to deliver excellent services to our communities. The pandemic has severely challenged what we do, and our people in Tayside Contracts have reacted magnificently. Their inspirational response to such uniquely demanding circumstances, whilst still delivering vital public services, deserves our deepest gratitude and respect.”*

I can only add my own huge thanks for all you have done during this extraordinary period in the history of Tayside Contracts.

Thank you all so much.

**Keith McNamara**

**Managing Director**